

A new survey of wealthy nations finds favorable views rising for the U.S. while declining for China

By DIDI TANG

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Public opinions in 24 countries — mostly rich nations — have grown more favorable of the United States than of China, according to the latest survey by the Washington-based Pew Research Center.

The gap in favorability of the world's two largest economies widened after views of the U.S. rebounded since President Joe Biden took office in 2021, the report found. Favorable views of both countries fell in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic began, but the ratings for China remained low during the latest survey, the Pew center said, "leading to some of the largest gaps in these views we have seen in our polling."

The report, released Monday, comes as the two countries are intensely competing for global influence.

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President Joe Biden responds to a question from a journalist as he leaves St. Edmond's Roman Catholic Church in Rehoboth Beach, Del., after attending Mass, Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023.

Associated Press
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Continued from Front

President Xi Jinping wants China to be respected and trusted around the world, while Biden has made it a priority to mend relationships with U.S. allies. "This year, overall views of the United States are much more positive than views of China in most places surveyed," the report said. "But this has not always been the case in our nearly two decades of favorability polling, and views of the countries have fluctuated alongside views of their leaders."

The 2019 survey recorded a median of 55% across 22 countries showing favorable views of the U.S., compared to a median of 39%

of China.

In 2020, when Pew conducted surveys in a much smaller set of countries because of the pandemic, medians of 38% and 25% had favorable views of the U.S. and China, respectively. Of the same countries in 2023, medians of 58% and 21% had positive views of the U.S. and China, respectively. Medians are only of the 10 countries surveyed in both years, exclusive of the U.S. and Australia, Pew's research analysts said.

In the latest survey, the gaps were most significant in Poland, Japan and South Korea, where more than 70% of the respondents rated the U.S. positively, compared with fewer than 30% who viewed China fa-

vorably, said Pew, which conducted nationally representative surveys in 24 countries in 2023.

Japan and South Korea, neighbors of China, have had a historically tense relationship with each other. In a diplomatic breakthrough, Biden held a trilateral summit with Japan's prime minister and South Korea's president at Camp David in August, hailed by supporters as forging a strong partnership countering China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

The differences in favorable public opinions of the U.S. and China narrowed in middle-income countries such as Indonesia, South Africa and Mexico, and China overtook the U.S.



United States and Chinese flags are set up before a meeting between Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, on July 8, 2023.

Associated Press

in favorability in Nigeria, where both countries were highly favored, the report said.

Middle-income countries accounted for about one third of the countries surveyed by Pew, and no low-income country was included in the latest study. The center said it was unable to conduct in-person surveys in less developed countries during the pandemic but planned to gauge public opinions in those countries when travel becomes easier. "In the months ahead, we intend to continue expanding our country coverage to a more economically and geographically diverse set of countries," said Laura Clancy, a research analyst at Pew.

In China, the leadership has touted that the country has gained more friends and that friendships have become stronger around the world, typically among developing nations. Beijing's massive global infrastructure building scheme, known as the Belt and Road Initiative, is credited with bringing economic benefits to foreign countries and winning friends for Beijing, according to China's state media, contrary to Western criticism that those projects could saddle host countries with debt and harm the environment.

The views of the U.S. have shifted over time alongside changes to the presidency, Clancy said.

In 2023, a median of 56% across 22 countries had confidence in Biden, compared to 19% in Xi. In 2019, medians of the same 22 countries having confidence Donald Trump, then the U.S. president, and Xi were 31% and 28%, respectively.

In the latest survey, 83% people in Poland expressed confidence in Biden, compared to 8% in Xi, registering the widest gap of 75 percentage points, the report said. The spread was at least 50 points in countries such as Germany, Japan and Sweden. The gap narrowed in middle-income countries, but still more had more confidence in Biden and Xi, the report said.

"These gaps in views of the American and Chinese leaders reflect both souring attitudes toward Xi in high-income countries and greater confidence in Biden – particularly compared with his predecessor, Donald Trump," the report said.

In 2007, the gaps between the U.S. and China in terms of likeability were narrower under different leaders in both countries.

Then, a median of 53% across 15 countries reported favorable views of the U.S., compared to a median of 43% with favorable views of China. In 2023, medians of 59% and 27% across the same countries had favorable views of the U.S. and of China, respectively, according to Pew. □

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Yellen will host the Chinese vice premier for talks in San Francisco before the start of APEC summit

By AAMER MADHANI

Associated Press

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. (AP)

— U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will host Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng for two days of talks this week, the latest in a series of high-level talks between U.S. and Chinese officials as the world's two largest economies aim to ease tensions, the Treasury Department announced Monday.

The Yellen-He talks set for Thursday and Friday come ahead of the start of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco which starts November 11. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to meet next week during the summit, what would be the first engagement between the two leaders in nearly a year.

"As a foundation, our two nations have an obligation to establish resilient lines of open communication and to prevent our disagreements from spiraling into conflict," Yellen wrote in a Washington Post op-ed to spotlight the upcoming meeting. "But we also know that our relationship cannot be circumscribed to crisis



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, left, shakes hands with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng during a meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China, July 8, 2023.

Associated Press

management."

The meeting between the two senior government officials comes after Biden spoke with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the White House for about an hour late last month, when Beijing's top diplomat came to Washington for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan. Xi

similarly met with Blinken in June when the secretary of State traveled to Beijing for talks with Wang.

Yellen last met with her counterpart He during a July visit to Beijing, when she urged Chinese government officials for cooperation on climate change and other global challenges and not to let sharp disagreements about trade and other irritants derail relations.

China's Foreign Ministry said that He, who is the government's lead person on U.S.-China economic and trade issues, would visit the U.S. from Nov. 8-12.

Yellen is expected to amplify the message on climate during her talks with He in San Francisco. Treasury in a statement said that Yellen will also underscore that the Biden administration "will take targeted action to ad-

vance our national security and that of our allies, and protect human rights, but we do not use these tools to seek economic advantage."

Tensions between the two countries remain high, including over U.S. export controls on advanced technology. The Biden administration has also taken Beijing to task for economic practices that it says have put U.S. companies and workers at a disadvantage.

The U.S. has also criticized China's lending practices under its \$1 trillion Belt and Road Initiative, a network of projects and maritime lanes that snake around large portions of the world, primarily Asia and Africa. Critics, including the Biden administration, say China's projects often create massive debt and expose nations to undue influence by Beijing.

Yellen in her op-ed wrote she would raise during the meetings the administration's "serious concerns with Beijing's unfair economic practices, including its large-scale use of non-market tools, its barriers to market access and its coercive actions against U.S. firms in China." □

Protesters calling for Gaza cease-fire block road at Tacoma port while military cargo ship docks

By ED KOMENDA

Associated Press

TACOMA, Wash. (AP)

— Hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters calling for a cease-fire in Gaza blocked traffic Monday at the Port of Tacoma, where a military supply ship had recently arrived.

Organizers said they opposed the Israel-Hamas war and targeted the vessel — the Cape Orlando — based on confidential information that it was to be loaded with weapons bound for Israel.

Those claims could not immediately be corroborated. In an emailed statement, Air Force Lt. Col. Bryon J. McGarry, a spokes-

person for the Department of Defense, confirmed that the vessel is under the control of the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command and is supporting the movement of U.S. military cargo. "Due to operations security, DoD does not provide transit or movement details or information regarding the cargo embarked on vessels of this kind," McGarry said. The Cape Orlando drew similar protests in Oakland, California, where it docked on Friday before it sailed to Tacoma. About 300 protesters delayed its departure, and the U.S. Coast Guard detained three people who climbed onto the ship. The three were released

on a pier in San Francisco, Petty Officer Hunter Schnabel said Monday. He said investigations are ongoing against the three and others who had breached the federal maritime area.

By midmorning Monday, about 200 protesters remained at the Port of Tacoma, some carrying signs reading "No Aid For Israel" and "Free All Palestinian Prisoners," emblazoned with watermelons, a symbol of Palestinian freedom. No arrests had been made, said officer Shelbie Boyd, a spokesperson for the Tacoma Police Department. The protesters' goal was to block the Cape Orlando from being loaded, said



Hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters gather at the Port of Tacoma at Terminal 7 to block what they believe to be a military ship bound for Israel, Monday, Nov. 6, 2023.

Associated Press

Wassim Hage, with the San Francisco-based Arab Resource and Organizing Center.

"It speaks to the historic moment where people are

coming out to say, 'No. No funding for genocide, no U.S. bombs for bombing hospitals and killing children in Gaza,'" he said Monday. □

Trial opens for ex-top Baltimore prosecutor charged with perjury tied to property purchases

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) — A former top Baltimore prosecutor lied about her finances during the COVID-19 pandemic to improperly access retirement funds that she used to buy two homes in Florida, a federal prosecutor said Monday at the start of Marilyn Mosby's perjury trial.

"This case is about a lawyer and a public servant who placed her own selfish interests above the truth," Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean Delaney told jurors during the trial's opening statements.

A defense attorney countered that Mosby — who gained a national profile for prosecuting Baltimore police officers after Freddie Gray, a Black man, died in police custody — was legally entitled to withdraw the money and spend it however she wanted. Mosby told the truth when she certified on paperwork that the pandemic harmed a travel-related business that she formed, said the lawyer, Maggie Grace.

"This case is about a three-page form and what was in Marilyn Mosby's mind when she completed that form," said Grace, an assistant federal public defender.

Mosby, who served two terms as state's attorney for



Maryland State Attorney for Baltimore City Marilyn Mosby speaks during a news conference on Oct. 11, 2022, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

Baltimore, was indicted on perjury charges before a Democratic primary challenger defeated her last year.

The 2022 indictment accuses her of withdrawing \$90,000 in retirement funds from her city account while falsely claiming that she had suffered financial hardships from the COVID-19 pandemic. She used the withdrawals as down payments to buy a home in Kissimmee, Florida, and a condominium in Long Boat Key, Florida.

A. Scott Bolden, a lawyer who initially represented

Mosby but later withdrew from the case, has described the charges as "bogus" and claimed the case is "rooted in personal, political and racial animus."

In 2015, her first year in office, Mosby pursued criminal charges against six police officers in Freddie Gray's death. Gray suffered a spinal injury after police handcuffed, shackled and placed him headfirst into a van. His death led to riots and protests in the city. None of the officers was convicted.

U.S. District Judge Lydia Kay Griggsby agreed to move

Mosby's trial from Baltimore to Greenbelt, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, D.C. Mosby's attorneys argued that she couldn't get a fair trial in Baltimore, where they said she has been a "lightning rod" for nearly a decade, bombarded by negative press coverage and "dogged by persistent criticism of her prosecutorial priorities."

Prosecutors said Mosby was complaining about press coverage that she had sought and encouraged.

Mosby is charged with two counts of perjury and two counts of making false

statements on a loan application. Mosby made withdrawals of \$40,000 and \$50,000 from Baltimore city's deferred compensation plan in 2020. Mosby received her full salary of approximately \$250,000 that year. Prosecutors say the money in the retirement account is held in trust and belongs to the city until a plan participant is eligible to make a withdrawal. They argue that Mosby wasn't entitled under federal law to access the funds in 2020 because her business, Mahogany Elite Enterprises, did not suffer any "adverse financial consequences" from the pandemic.

Delaney said Mosby's business had no clients or revenue.

"How can you have adverse financial consequences if you were paid the same salary for your job?" the prosecutor asked. "How can a business close if it was never operable?" Grace said prosecutors can't prove that Mosby lied about her finances and knowingly made a false statement on the form for accessing her retirement funds.

"That is a high bar that the government cannot meet. And the government cannot meet it because Ms. Mosby is innocent," she said. □



People sign "I love you," while gathered at a vigil for the victims of mass shootings days earlier, Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023, outside the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston, Maine.

Associated Press

LEWISTON, Maine (AP) — Two senators from Maine asked the U.S. Army inspec-

tor general on Monday to provide a full accounting of interactions with a reservist

U.S. senators seek answers from Army after reservist killed 18 in Maine

before he killed 18 people and injured 13 others in the deadliest shooting in the state's history. U.S. Sens. Susan Collins, a Republican, and Angus King, an independent, told Lt. Gen. Donna W. Martin in a letter that it's important to understand "what occurred, or failed to occur" at the federal level, including the Army, before Robert Card opened fire at a bowling alley and bar in Lewiston.

Fellow soldiers expressed concerns about Card's mental health before the

Oct. 25 shootings. One of them sent a text message in September saying, "I believe he's going to snap and do a mass shooting," according to law enforcement.

The senators view their federal request as working in tandem with an independent commission that Democratic Gov. Janet Mills is convening to explore the facts related to the shooting, including the police response.

"As we continue to grieve the needless loss of life

that day, we must work to fully understand what happened — and what could have been done differently that might have prevented this tragedy — on the local, state, and federal levels," the senators wrote. The senators posed several questions including under what circumstances the Army reports personnel to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and when the Army seeks to temporarily remove firearms from a soldier's possession. □

A record number of migrants have arrived in Spain's Canary Islands this year

By RENATA BRITO
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— A record number of migrants have made the treacherous boat journey on the Atlantic Ocean to Spain's Canary Islands this year, and most of the 32,000 people are coming from Senegal.

The islands, located off West Africa, have been used for decades as a stepping stone to Europe. Boats also depart from Gambia, Mauritania, Morocco and Western Sahara.

According to an Associated Press tally of figures released by Spain's Interior Ministry and local emergency services, at least 32,029 people landed on the Canary Islands from Jan. 1 to Nov. 5. That exceeds the migration crisis of 2006, when 31,678 migrants disembarked.

Smugglers in Senegal pack young people looking for better opportunities in Europe into old artisanal fishing boats, charging them around 300,000 CFA francs (\$490). The journey from Senegal to the Canaries usually takes a week of difficult upwind sailing for around 1,600 km (1,000 miles).

Migrant boats frequently shipwreck or disappear in



Migrants crowd a wooden boat as they are towed to the port in La Restinga on the Canary island of El Hierro on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023.

Associated Press

the Atlantic.

To avoid border controls, smugglers take longer journeys, navigating west into the open Atlantic before continuing north to the Canaries — a detour that brings many to the tiny westernmost El Hierro island, at times overwhelming local authorities and emergency services.

Once a beacon of democratic stability in West Africa, Senegal has seen socio-political unrest with violent clashes earlier this

year. President Macky Sall's embattled government has dissolved Ousmane Sonko's opposition party, popular among young voters.

A lack of jobs, the rising cost of living, depleting fishing stocks and poor health care are some of the reasons pushing thousands to leave Senegal for Spain, said Saliou Diouf, a Senegalese migrants' rights activist and founder of the association Boza Fii.

The political crisis and crackdown on the oppo-

sition have extinguished any remaining hope young people had of a better future at home, Diouf added.

"They are looking for a way out," he said. "They no longer trust the system."

Their journey is one of the longest and most dangerous to Europe. At least 512 people have died so far this year according to the International Organization for Migration, though the figure is believed to be a vast undercount.

Diouf, who documents cases of missing migrants, says it's impossible to know how many people have died because of the lack of information and transparency. Many migrants are not deterred by reports of shipwrecks, he said. They see those who make it and want to try their luck too.

While Senegalese migrants often struggle to obtain the necessary work and residency permits to stay in Spain, many eventually find ways to make a living in European cities or rural farmlands. When they do, the remittances they send home make a huge difference in their families' lives.

Faced with the record number of arrivals this year, Spain's Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska flew to the Senegalese capital of Dakar last week to press the government to do more to stop boats from leaving.

Grande-Marlaska urged his Senegalese counterpart, Sidiki Kaba, to "act more quickly" and avoid more deaths.

"We agreed that we must combat irregular immigration with force," Kaba said, acknowledging irregular migration as a "huge challenge" for Spain, Senegal and the European Union. □

Climate activists smash glass protecting Velazquez's Venus painting in London's National Gallery

By SYLVIA HUI
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Two climate change protesters were arrested Monday after they smashed a protective glass panel covering a famous Diego Velázquez oil painting at London's National Gallery, police said Monday.

The two activists from the group Just Stop Oil targeted Velázquez's "The Toilet of Venus," also known as "The Rokeby Venus," with small hammers. Photo-

tos showed the protective glass panel punctured with several holes.

Just Stop Oil, which has previously led similar protests targeting famous artworks and public buildings, said Monday's action was to demand Britain's government immediately halt all licensing for the exploration, development and production of fossil fuels in the U.K. The group said Monday that the two activists chose to target Velázquez's 17th-century oil painting, one

of the Spanish artist's most celebrated masterpieces, because it was previously slashed as part of the suffragette movement calling for women's rights in 1914. Just Stop Oil said the protesters hammered the glass panel, then told people at the gallery: "Women did not get the vote by voting. It is time for deeds, not words."

"Politics is failing us. It failed women in 1914 and it is failing us now," they added. Police said the two were ar-



In this photo provided by Just Stop Oil on Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, activists hit the protective glass on a painting at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Associated Press

rested on suspicion of criminal damage. The National Gallery said the painting has been removed from display so conservators can examine it.

"The pair appeared to strike 'The Toilet of Venus'

('The Rokeby Venus') by Velázquez with what appeared to be emergency rescue hammers. The room was cleared of visitors and police were called," the museum said in a statement. □

Myanmar resistance claims first capture of a district capital from the military government

By GRANT PECK

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Armed resistance groups fighting Myanmar's military government seized a district capital in the north Monday after taking state offices and a police station in a four-day offensive, according to residents, the country's major opposition coalition and media reports.

Kawlin in Sagaing region is the first administrative capital seized by the resistance forces in continuing strife since the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021.

Sagaing has been a stronghold of armed resistance to the army, which has responded with major offensives using ground troops supported by artillery and air strikes, burning down villages and driving hundreds of thousands of people from their homes. Loosely organized resistance groups opposed to army rule, known as the People's Defense Force, or PDF, have sprung up around the country since the army's takeover. They have made alliances with well-established armed



Members of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army hold the group's flag as they pose for a photograph on a captured army armored vehicle in Myanmar, Saturday Oct. 28, 2023.

Associated Press

ethnic minority groups such as the Kachin and Karen, who have been fighting in border areas for greater autonomy from the central government for more than half a century.

Kawlin, which is about 200 kilometers (125 miles) north of Mandalay, the country's second biggest city, is

the principal town of Kawlin district. Clashes began there at dawn on Friday with coordinated attacks by a combined force of at least three local resistance groups including the Kawlin People's Defense Force, according to reports posted online by media groups sympathetic to the

resistance struggle. Outlets including Khit Thit Media also posted video online showing what they said were members of the resistance clearing the bodies of soldiers and police killed in battle from damaged buildings. It was impossible for The Associated Press to independently

verify details of the fighting in the remote, war-torn area. However, a resident interviewed by phone said that the resistance fighters seized Kawlin's police station on Sunday evening and the township administration office on Monday at 7:30 a.m., and by that morning they had taken control of the whole town, which was being patrolled by a joint resistance force. He spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was afraid of being arrested by the military. Members of the Kachin Independence Army, an armed wing of the main Kachin political organization, the Kachin Independence Organization, were among the resistance forces taking part, he said.

He said the military's intense aerial bombardments and shelling of recent days had stopped on Monday, and the resistance forces were preparing to defend against new attacks. More than 20 members of the military and three members of the resistance groups died in clashes, and the number of the civilians killed during the fighting was still being tallied, he said. □



Pro-Palestinian supporters demonstrate at the entrance to the Israeli embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, on Oct. 20, 2023.

Associated Press

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa's government has recalled Monday its ambassador and diplomatic mission to Israel in condemnation of the bombardment of the Gaza Strip, calling it a "genocide." The government also

threatened action against the Israeli ambassador to South Africa over his recent remarks on the African country's stance on the Israel-Hamas war. No further details were given about the remarks.

The war broke out after the Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked Israel on

South Africa recalls ambassador and diplomatic mission to Israel

Oct. 7, leaving over 1,400 people dead. More than 10,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's military offensive in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run health ministry. "The South African government has decided to withdraw all its diplomats in Tel Aviv for consultation," said minister in the presidency Khumbudzo Ntshavheni. She added the cabinet noted the "disparaging remarks of the Israeli ambassador to South Africa about those who are opposing the atrocities and genocide of the Israeli government" and that the department of international relations has been instructed to "take the necessary

measures within the diplomatic channels and protocols to deal with (his) conduct." Ntshavheni also said the position of the Israeli ambassador in the country was "untenable."

Pro-Palestinian protesters — who have been staging demonstrations by the U.S. Consulate in Johannesburg and Israeli embassies in Pretoria and Cape Town — have called on the South African government to expel the Israeli ambassador. International relations minister Naledi Pandor, who on Monday hosted her Ukraine counterpart Dmytro Kuleba, said the South African officials would be recalled from Tel Aviv to

give the government a detailed briefing about the situation in the region.

"We need to have this engagement with our officials because we are extremely concerned at the continued killing of children and innocent civilians in the Palestinian territory and we believe the nature of response by Israel has become one of collective punishment," said Pandor. Pandor said she had discussed the strengthening of bilateral ties with her Ukraine counterpart, including meetings held by at least seven African leaders who visited Moscow and Kyiv earlier this year to propose a peace plan. □

Unique fauna of Aruba



For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later

in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The par-



akeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are

found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/>

The Kman and The Aloe Man



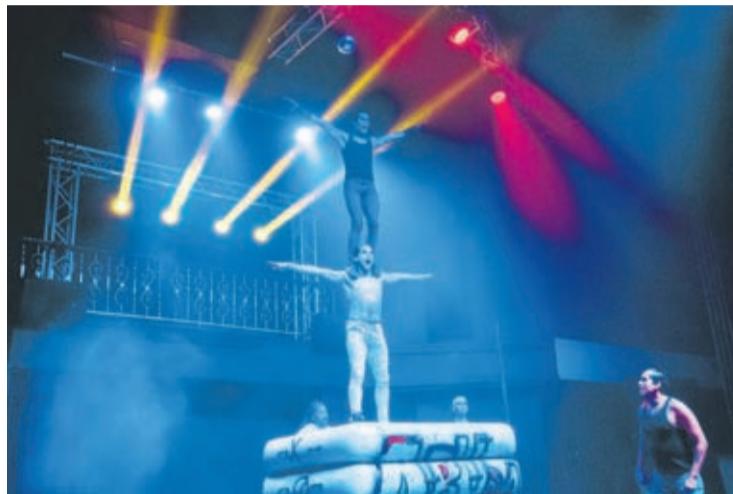
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Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!

In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday and Friday starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom to our local audience as well as our visitors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of its kind on the island.

America's Got Talent

Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were



able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.

Reservations and tickets

To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rccaruba.□



Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna

mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamano-ta Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park. The staircase that runs on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these



stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this

resting stop is also a sight to see. The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day.□



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History of fishing in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fisherman is Gregory Wernet.

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil -industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants. As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their

living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head quarter and remains the fishermen's settlement. Savaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time. The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the parago or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wovo di boyo. Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The king-fish has a

weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclats may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds. Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and some are being sold in the market to local restaurants.

Fisherman Gregory Wernet

Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing. There

they catch red snapper, grouper and amberjack. They usually fish for

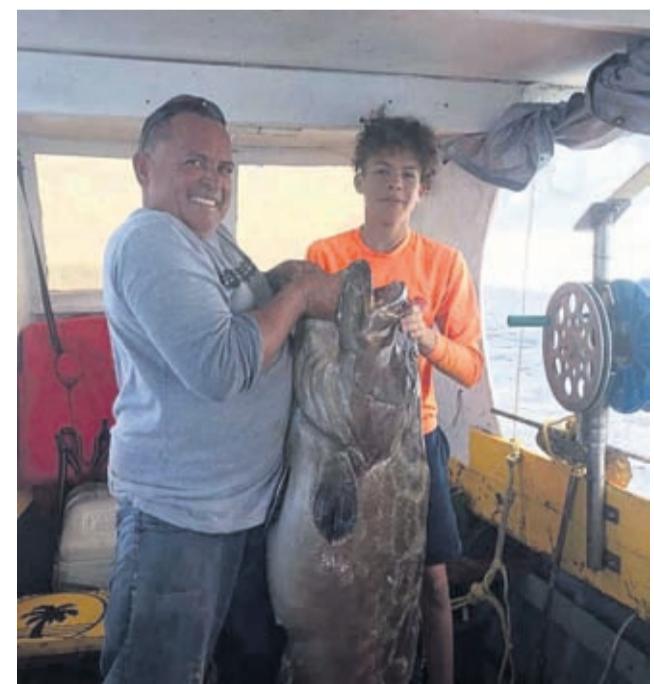
15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go

fishing from 5 in the morning until 8

o'clock at night or even sometimes

from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known in Aruba as piskechi. They have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and 'Padrot' which they have at home. The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it. □

Source: Etnia Nativa



National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the island's past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.



The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is an adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic ex-

pressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas. □

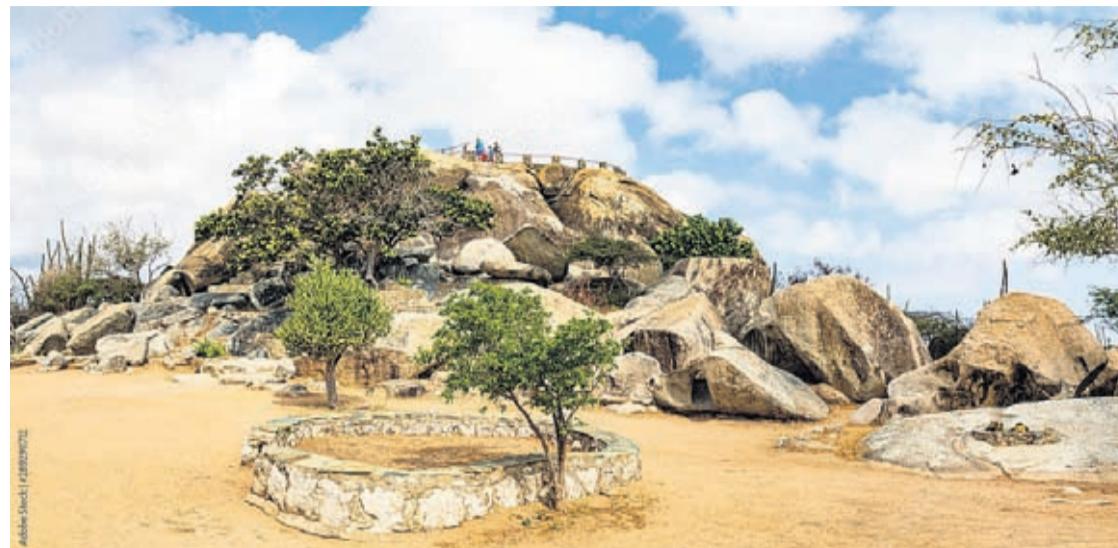


Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your “off-road” trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations are just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the



The Ayo Rock Formation

surrounding “mondi”*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that

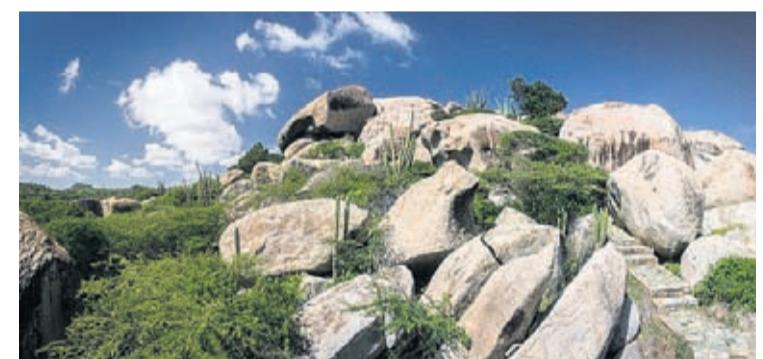
The Casibari Rock Formation

lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area contain-

ing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat boulder. For this position, you



The Ayo Rock Formation

***Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi!**

Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to travelling parents to list off some the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas
Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay,

like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of the Pos Chiquito city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for

kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay



beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Strong

1 "You there!"

— ox

5 Lipstick

slip

10 Moreno and Hayworth

12 Bisect

13 It shows red and blue states

15 Cobbler's cousin

16 Band blaster

17 "Give — rest!"

18 Be frugal

20 Waiter's aid

21 Fall flower

22 Corn units

23 Battery end

25 Set of stores

28 Stately home

31 "Home was not built in —"

32 Lever, of a sort

34 Turn bad

35 Had supper

36 French friend

37 It shows an X

40 Painter Matisse

41 Black card

42 Cart pullers

SIFT	ADDER
ERIE	LOOSER
DENS	LITTLE
AND THEN	AID
NEST EGG	TAO
USE	RENE
SNOBBS	PESTS
LOPE	LOS
ODE	BESTMAN
GUN	AGESAGO
ALSA	CE TINT
NEURON	ONES
SPEND	PESO

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13					14				
15				16			17		
18			19			20			
	21				22				
25	26	27		28		29	30		
31			32				33		
34		35			36				
37		38			39				
40				41					
42				43					

11-7

AXYDI.BAAXR
is LONG FELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-7

CRYPTOQUOTE

G U C X Y R G S Y N - Y U Z U R L M G

X Y C S Y L H B Z Z D G M O J F J M Y G I

Y R L M G A J X Y C Y L — A J I G C

B R G I H

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ANY MAN'S DEATH DIMINISHES ME ... AND THEREFORE NEVER SEND TO KNOW FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS. IT TOLLS FOR THEE. JOHN DONNE

5 strategies for navigating today's digital tipping culture



In this Feb. 2, 2011, file photo, a wallet containing cash and a Visa card is displayed in Surfside, Fla. The requests for tips for service are coming more frequently these days, as cashless payment methods with automated tipping options proliferate at checkout counters.

Associated Press

By KIMBERLY PALMER
of NerdWallet

The nearly universal experience of finding yourself face-to-face with a checkout counter screen asking you to select an amount to tip for service can prompt a cascade of awkward questions: How much should you tip on a \$5 coffee if anything? How can you decide before the cup has even been poured? Is it rude to select "no tip," then slink away with your drink? The answers to those questions vary depending on whom you ask, but tipping experts agree on one thing: We get prompted to tip much more frequently these days, largely because of the explosion of cashless payment methods with automated tipping options. Another thing they agree on: You don't always have to say "yes."

"During the pandemic and post-pandemic, we've seen a dramatic shift in the way tips are given. Suddenly, you see tablets where you are prompted

to give specific tip amounts at points of purchase where never before would anyone have dreamed of giving a tip," says Thomas Farley, also known as "Mister Manners," a New York-based etiquette expert and keynote speaker.

"Consumers want to be dutiful, good consumers, so many play along, but still feel confused," Farley adds. To sort out that confusion, consider following these five strategies for navigating current tipping culture:

BRUSH OFF ANY AWKWARDNESS

While you might feel put on the spot with the sudden appearance of the tipping screen at a checkout counter, Farley says you should feel justified in taking your time and making the best decision for you and your budget.

"Most servers I witness try to give you your space while you decide. Own your decision knowing you are fully supported by good etiquette guidelines either way," he says.

"We are living through inflationary times when everything costs more. Unless you have tons of disposable income, you shouldn't feel guilty about not tipping" at a checkout counter, even if an iPad tells you to, Farley adds.

AIM TO TIP 20% FOR MOST SERVICES

While tipping isn't traditional at a coffee shop or convenience store counter, it is expected when you're being served at a restaurant, where 20% is customary. Hair stylists, salon assistants, food delivery drivers and other service workers generally rely on similar percentage tips as a significant portion of their income.

Blake Hammerton, Dallas-based founder of The Sharp Gentleman, a coaching and lifestyle website for men, suggests adding 20% or rounding up to an even dollar amount for most services. As a former pizza delivery worker, he says he always appreciated tips based on the amount of effort he had to put into the job, including distance driven and the amount of food delivered. "Five dollars is great if it's close by and a small amount, but if it's eight pizzas for a party, you'll want to tip more," he says.

CARRY SOME CASH FOR TRADITIONAL TIPPING

Lisa Mirza Grotts, an etiquette expert in the San Francisco Bay area, says that while many consumers no longer carry much cash, it's still useful to have some on hand in certain situations, such as when tipping a hotel housekeeper or valet. She suggests keeping \$5 and \$10 bills handy, especially when you travel.

There's also a time for larger bills. When you're tipping on a big-ticket service, such as a \$5,000 house move, Farley recommends having a few \$100 bills on hand to pass out to the workers at the end. "There's no need to tip 20%, but \$100 would go a long way," he says. □

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Humanoid robots are here, but they're a little awkward. Do we really need them?

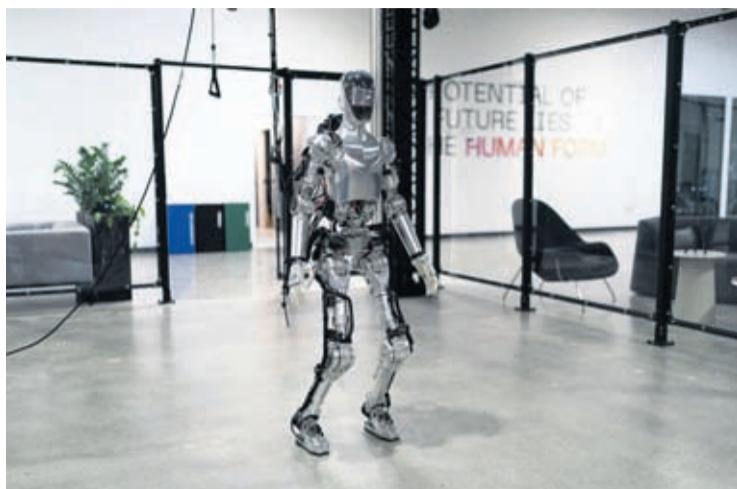
By MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

Building a robot that's both human-like and useful is a decades-old engineering dream inspired by popular science fiction.

While the latest artificial intelligence craze has sparked another wave of investments in the quest to build a humanoid, most of the current prototypes are clumsy and impractical, looking better in staged performances than in real life. That hasn't stopped a handful of startups from keeping at it.

"The intention is not to start from the beginning and say, 'Hey, we're trying to make a robot look like a person,'" said Jonathan Hurst, co-founder and chief robot officer at Agility Robotics. "We're trying to make robots that can operate in human spaces."

Do we even need humanoids? Hurst makes a point of describing Agility's warehouse robot Digit as human-centric, not humanoid, a distinction meant to emphasize what it does over what it's trying to be. What it does, for now, is pick up tote bins and move them. Amazon announced in October it will begin testing Digits for use in its warehouses, and Agility opened an Oregon factory in September to mass produce them. Digit has a head containing cameras, oth-



Humanoid robot Figure 01 is demonstrated at Figure AI's test facility in Sunnyvale, Calif., Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023.

Associated Press

er sensors and animated eyes, and a torso that essentially works as its engine. It has two arms and two legs, but its legs are more bird-like than human, with an inverted knees appearance that resembles so-called digitigrade animals such as birds, cats and dogs that walk on their toes rather than on flat feet. Rival robot-makers, like Figure AI, are taking a more purist approach on the idea that only true humanoids can effectively navigate workplaces, homes and a society built for humans. Figure also plans to start with a relatively simple use case, such as in a retail warehouse, but aims for a commercial robot that can be "iterated on like an iPhone" to perform multiple tasks to take up the work of humans as birth rates decline around the world.

"There's not enough people doing these jobs, so the market's massive," said Figure AI CEO Brett Adcock. "If we can just get humanoids to do work that humans are not wanting to do because there's a shortfall of humans, we can sell millions of humanoids, billions maybe."

At the moment, however, Adcock's firm doesn't have a prototype that's ready for

market. Founded just over a year ago and after having raised tens of millions of dollars, it recently revealed a 38-second video of Figure walking through its test facility in Sunnyvale, California. □

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Jeff Tweedy is a prolific songwriter and poignant lyricist. So why does writing scare him?

By KRISTA FAURIA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jeff Tweedy is known to fans as a prolific songwriter and poignant lyricist. So it may come as a surprise that the frontman of the Grammy-winning rock band Wilco has long found the act of writing intimidating.

"I've always been really afraid of prose because I wasn't good in school. I was always underachieving. And part of it was I always felt overwhelmed by how much there is to say," he says.

Perhaps ironically, that fear is in part what compelled a young Tweedy to start writing music four decades ago. "Songwriting is condensing things and giving yourself the freedom to omit lots of things, just to try and get the essence of an emotion or the essence of a story to come through," he says.

But as he gears up to release his third book on Tuesday, Tweedy admits the task of writing no longer daunts him the way it once did. Having already tackled a memoir and a "how to" book on songwriting, Tweedy is now shifting his attention to other musicians and the ways their art has influenced him in "World Within a Song."

The book is just as much about the circumstances in



Singer-songwriter Jeff Tweedy of the band Wilco poses for a portrait, Friday, Oct. 6, 2023, at The Theatre at Ace Hotel in Los Angeles to promote his book "World Within a Song: Music That Changed My Life and Life That Changed My Music."

Associated Press

which Tweedy experienced these eclectic 50 tracks as it is about the songs themselves — the comfort that hearing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" with his Judy Garland-loving mom brought him as a kid or the ways in which Minutemen's "History Lesson – Part II" bred his longing to be a rock star. And while Tweedy, whose unadulterated love for music is still palpable after decades in the industry, recognizes the benefits of the unfettered access to songs that streaming platforms grant, he also laments what

is lost when listeners don't have to "work for it" in their search for music.

"I think that there was something really important about the way my generation and previous generations invested themselves in music. The only way to get it was to pay for it. And once you had made just even that outlay of cash, you made time to find a way into it," he says. "Now, I think if you don't like something immediately, there's 10,000 other songs that you want to go to and find something that's going to

hit you right away."

To combat that throwaway culture, Tweedy makes a habit of listening to music he's not into, trying to discern why that is — a practice, he says, that often confuses "the algorithm" used by streaming services to predict people's tastes. "I don't like not liking music. And so a lot of times I visit stuff thinking, 'I know I'm not a big fan of this, but I want to know what other people are hearing in it,'" he explains. "I think there's really something interesting about listening to things

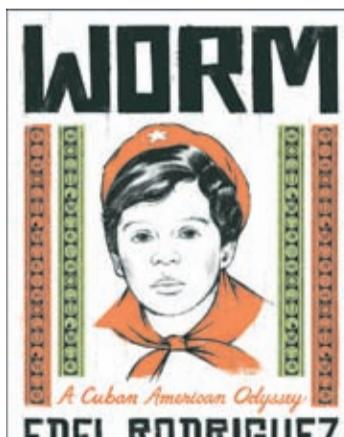
that you don't love or don't think were made for you."

Although often dubbed an alternative country band, Wilco has bent genres since they first formed 30 years ago, solidifying their reputation for experimentation and resistance to categorization with their seminal 2002 record, "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" — their bestselling album to date.

"We've tried hard to kill genres for ourselves," Tweedy said of the Chicago-based band's perspective on their country associations. "It's an artistic tool, in a way. When somebody is coming at your music with a preconceived notion, then you have some friction to push against. And that's artistically enticing."

That genre defiance continues with their 13th studio album, "Cousin," released in September. The band has spent most of 2023 touring, despite Tweedy's ongoing battle with osteoarthritis in his hips. The pain is at times debilitating, and even walking short distances proves difficult for the 56-year-old. During a recent show in Los Angeles, though, Tweedy's pain was hardly apparent during a two-hour set.

While the discomfort is at times distracting for him, he says the act of performing does, for brief moments, make him forget. □



This cover image released by Metropolitan Books shows "Worm: A Cuban American Odyssey" by Edel Rodriguez.

Associated Press

By DONNA EDWARDS

Associated Press

Decades before Edel Ro-

Book Review: Edel Rodriguez shows Cuban history as a warning for the US in new graphic memoir 'Worm'

Edel Rodriguez made his iconic, mouth-only political illustration of Donald Trump for the cover of Time magazine, he was a boy growing up in Fidel Castro's Cuba. In his new graphic memoir, "Worm: A Cuban American Odyssey," Rodriguez mixes historical context and personal stories to recount his harrowing journey growing up under — then escaping — Communism and authoritarianism in Cuba, as well as the warning signs he recognizes in America

today. Before diving into his life, Rodriguez paints a picture of the Cuba he was born into, starting with a short history of the Cuban Revolution that culminated in the January 1959 insurrection and Castro seizing power. Then, Rodriguez zooms in to focus on the small town of El Gabriel, 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Havana, where his family has lived for generations. Here we see the echoes of Cuban politics in Edel's daily life as

his grandfather saves every scrap and his grandmother warns that the walls have ears.

The style is similar to the simplistic but expressive look of his famed political cartoons, but with a printmaking look. Rodriguez uses a limited, layered color palette — mainly red, green and black like the Pan-African flag.

But the mildly cartoonish style is sometimes broken up by detailed portraits and elegant compositions.

A depiction of his grandmother holding young Edel early in the book recalls Dorothea Lange's photojournalism of the Great Depression, surrounded by streaky black darkness. Depictions of roses, a skull, a goat and a Santería evil eye dance around them, illuminated in sepia spotlights and looking like they could have come straight from a deck of tarot cards. It makes for a arresting piece that takes up the entire page. □

Ryan Blaney adds to Ohio family legacy with 1st NASCAR championship

By JENNA FRYER
AP Auto Racing Writer

AVONDALE, Ariz. (AP) —

The Blaney name has long been renowned in motorsports throughout the Midwest, where the Ohio-based family won in sprint cars, won on dirt tracks and racked up championships for three generations.

It began with George Blaney, a lumber operator who also owned a race team. His son, Lou, won 600 sprint feature races, drove for his father's three-car team, was inducted into the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame, and owned and operated Sharon Speedway in Hartford, just shy of the Pennsylvania state line. Lou had two sons, Dave and Dale. Both wanted to be racers, although Dale played basketball at West Virginia and was drafted by the Los Angeles Lakers in 1986. He quit before the season to focus on driving cars, and both of Lou's sons won titles at the grassroots racing level.

Dave then made his way to NASCAR for 473 Cup Series starts over 17 seasons. He was a journeyman — his 2006 victory in the Xfinity Series race at Charlotte was the only win of his career across all three NASCAR national series — but he was his son's hero.

Ryan Blaney wanted to be just like his dad. He wanted to be the Blaney to give the family a championship on asphalt. When he finally did it Sunday at Phoenix Raceway his hero was there to



Ryan Blaney, center right, receives the NASCAR Cup Series Championship Cup from NASCAR president Steve Phelps, center left, after winning it at Phoenix Raceway, Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, in Avondale, Ariz.

Associated Press

celebrate with him.

"He's been not only someone I grew up wanting to be like and wanting to do his sport, obviously getting me started in racing, supported me along the way, opened a lot of doors for me," Blaney said Sunday night as his father sat in the back of the media room at Phoenix watching his son with beaming pride.

"For him to still be supportive when I'm an adult is great. His whole thing through the playoffs was, 'I see the path, I can see the path to the championship, I can see it,'" he continued. "After we won Martinsville, he's like, 'It's lit up now, the path is lit up.' I think we drove through the gate (now). So

we have arrived."

Not too bad for a guy who in March of this year was blasted by former driver and current NBC analyst Kyle Petty — himself a multi-generational racer — who called Blaney "the new Kasey Kahne. Potential unfulfilled. Everybody wants to talk about what he can do, but he never does anything."

At the time, Blaney had seven career Cup Series wins over seven seasons and was coming off a winless 2022. The comments stung Blaney, who knew he had fallen short of the expectations he had for himself and those that Team Penske had in the 29-year-old.

His losing streak stretched

59 races — nearly two full years — before he tearfully snapped it in May with a confidence-resetting win in the Coca-Cola 600. It was validation of the internal work he was doing. In his second season with crew chief Jonathan Hasser, the pairing examined the hurdles for Blaney — and how to get over them.

"It was something we talked about a lot between me and Jonathan, and internally with myself. It's not fun pointing out things that you do poorly, right? It's not pointing out flaws about yourself, but it's important to do to try to work on," Blaney said. "Like, 'You're bad here, you do a terrible job at this.' It's hard admit-

ting yourself to those things internally. If they're holding you back, you have to address those problems."

His realization that he needed to be better finally came. "You have to be smarter during races," he recalled. "You have got to think about the bigger picture. It's not only about being fast, you have to evolve yourself to be a more well-rounded racer. It was a lot of conversations with myself internally."

The work paid off in this three-win season, especially when he turned it up in the playoffs. Over the final six weeks, Blaney racked up two wins, two runners-up and didn't finish lower than 12th.

The effort gave Roger Penske consecutive Cup Series titles for the first time in his NASCAR career following Joey Logano's win last year. Blaney's first career title was the fourth Cup championship for Team Penske and 44th overall for the storied organization. It also gave Ford the first three-race sweep of NASCAR's championship weekend since 2001.

Blaney is now NASCAR's first Ohio-born champion and a star in the making. Soft-spoken and mild-mannered off the track, he showed at Phoenix he is unafraid to mix it up. He could have cost himself the title when he deliberately ran into the back of race-winner Ross Chastain because he was mad at how hard Chastain was racing him. □

Nevada high court postpones NFL appeal in Jon Gruden emails lawsuit until January

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Nevada Supreme Court has pushed back to Jan. 10 the date for oral arguments in a contract interference and conspiracy lawsuit filed against the NFL by former Las Vegas Raiders coach Jon Gruden.

Postponement of the hearing, originally scheduled for Tuesday, came at the request of attorneys for who cited a scheduling conflict.

Lawyers for neither side responded to email messages Monday

about the schedule change.

The league wants the court to reverse a state court judge's decisions in May 2022 letting Gruden's lawsuit proceed and not to order out-of-court talks that could be overseen by Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Gruden accuses the league of improperly leaking racist, sexist and homophobic emails that Gruden sent when he was an ESPN announcer to force him to resign from the Raiders in 2021.

Gruden's emails went from 2011 to 2018 to former Washington Commanders executive Bruce Allen and were found amid emails the league obtained during an investigation into the workplace culture of the Washington team.

Gruden alleges disclosure of the emails destroyed his career and ruined endorsement contracts. He is seeking monetary damages. Gruden was the Raiders head coach when the team moved in 2020 from Oakland to Las Vegas. □



Oakland Raiders head coach Jon Gruden speaks at a news conference after an NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018.

Associated Press

Giants quarterback Daniel Jones out for the season with torn ACL in right knee

By TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)

— New York Giants quarterback Daniel Jones is going to miss the rest of the season with a torn ACL in his right knee, marking the second time in three years he's been sidelined by an injury.

Jones had an MRI on Monday and it showed the season-ending injury, coach Brian Daboll confirmed.

The sixth pick in the 2019 draft missed the final six games of the '21 season with a neck injury.

"It was devastating," left tackle Andrew Thomas said Monday after hearing the news. "You know, one of my teammates, one of my good friends, it (stinks) to hear news like that with injuries like that. It's something you can't control. So just try to do my best to uplift him during this situation, help them out and wish him the best with the recovery." A 26-year-old who signed a four-year, \$160 million contract in March, Jones was hurt on a non-contact play in the first half of Sunday's



New York Giants quarterback Daniel Jones grimaces after a sack during the first half of an NFL football game against the Las Vegas Raiders, Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

30-6 loss to the Las Vegas Raiders.

The Giants now have a 2-7 record and little hope of making the playoffs for a second straight season.

The injury might force the Giants to consider drafting a quarterback in next year's draft, particularly if they have a high pick.

Daboll had no information on when surgery would take place or whether any other parts of the knee were hurt.

"I talked to him obviously

on the plane before he got the MRI, and then really, I just saw him for 30 seconds here before I came into this press conference," Daboll said of Jones. "He was having a meeting with the doctors, just interrupted and told me what it was. I gave him a hug, and that's my extent of it right now."

Jones was not immediately available for comment. He was 108 of 160 for 909 yards, two touchdowns and six interceptions. He also ran 40 times for 206 yards and a

TD.

"He's a competitor, you know?" receiver Darius Slayton said of Jones. "Even though we didn't know until this morning that he officially tore his ACL, but those moments as a player, obviously, the thought goes through your head and the first emotion is devastation. We all work extremely hard to make the best out of the 17 opportunities we get every year to play the game we love and having that slip away is not easy for any of us to deal with."

Jones was returning to the lineup after missing three games with a neck injury, a different one than two years ago.

The Duke product was hurt on the final play of the first quarter when his right knee gave out while he

was looking for a receiver downfield. There was no contact.

Jones was examined in the medical tent between quarters, did a little running on the sideline and convinced the coaches and medical staff he could go back in. On the first play of the second quarter, he dropped back and his knee gave out again. He left the field and did not return.

Tommy DeVito, who was promoted from the practice squad this week with backup Tyrod Taylor on injured reserve with a rib cage injury, finished up, hitting 15 of 20 for 175 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions. He made his NFL debut the week before against the Jets after Taylor was hurt. □

New York Mets hiring Yankees bench coach Carlos Mendoza as manager, AP source says

By MIKE FITZPATRICK

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Mets are hiring Yankees bench coach Carlos Mendoza as their manager, according to a person familiar with the decision.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Monday because the move had not been announced.

Mendoza spent the past four seasons across town as Aaron Boone's bench coach with the Yankees. He replaces Buck Showalter, fired by the Mets at the end of last season after holding the job for two years.

It's the first high-profile hire by new Mets president of baseball operations David Stearns, who took over his hometown team early last month.

Mendoza, who turns 44 this month, has managed in the Venezuelan Winter League but never above Class A in the minors. He takes over a Mets team that finished fourth in the NL East this season at 75-87, which was 29 games behind first-place Atlanta, despite having the highest payroll in major league history under owner Steve Cohen. Mendoza becomes the fifth Mets manager since Terry Collins' seven-year tenure ended in 2017. None of the past four lasted more than two seasons — Carlos Beltrán was let go without even managing a game, fallout from Major League Baseball's investigation into the Houston Astros' cheating scandal in 2017.

New York was reportedly interested in Craig Counsell, who worked under Stearns for years in Milwaukee. But after managing his hometown Brewers to five playoff appearances in the last six seasons, including a third NL Central title this year, Counsell had several suitors. He was hired Monday by the Chicago Cubs to replace David Ross on a massive five-year contract worth more than \$40 million, according to a person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because that deal hadn't been announced. □